

Hello. I am an part-time independent musician and a concerned citizen. I studied communication at the University of Dayton, where I earned a Master's degree while volunteering as a D.J. on our college radio station.

As a musician, I've released an album and produced two compilations of local independent music. My band performs our original music on a monthly basis throughout southwest Ohio. One of my greatest joys is discovering new music, both from independent and major label artists.

In my experience, I've learned that it is very difficult for the best independent artists to get any mass exposure, even on a local level. Only a few radio stations bother with local programming, and then only in very limited late night, low-rating time slots. Many of these stations are owned by corporate conglomerates that pay no attention to the community. They play the same mass-produced songs as any other station across the country, and have little or no true local programming other than traffic reports.

The FCC has not done enough to require radio and television stations to act on local interests. Local programming should be integrating into regular broadcast schedules. Furthermore, stations should be required to provide equal access to all advertisers. Many non-profit advocacy groups are denied the opportunity to voice their opinions through advertising.

Please make more of an effort to make mass media more responsive to the community. The airwaves belong to the public and should serve the public, not the corporate interests who rent them from us.